

# Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

A Place to Call Home



## Why?

In the past, addressing homelessness equaled funding shelters to temporarily house individuals and families in crisis. But did that work? Was focusing our efforts only on emergency shelters the best and most cost effective way to end homelessness?

Turns out that while the bulk of homelessness funding was spent on shelter housing, there were more efficient ways of moving people into permanent housing.

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding brought a chance to try something different. To not only to focus on preventing chronic homelessness before it is entrenched, but also to closely track which homeless program methods are the most effective.

## 97.87% Success Rate

ARRA funded the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

The first part of this program targeted people a step away from living in a shelter or on the street. These funds provided assistance such as rental assistance and utility payments to Georgians facing eviction who had no other financial resources or community supports to keep them in housing. To date, 14,210 people have been served through this program which, according to the 2010 Census, is about the population of Jasper County.

The purpose of the second half of the program - Rapid Re-Housing - was to provide those same tools and resources to house those who recently became homeless. To date, 2,471 persons have been served in this program.

Through this program, DCA has a 97.89% success rate. This means that almost 98% of persons assisted through these programs wound up in a stable home.

## The Program in Action – Success Story

A client requesting housing assistance from Middle Georgia Community Action Agency was caught in a catch-22. Although she had recently gained full-time employment, she had not saved enough money to cover the expenses of renting an apartment. She was also reaching the time limit of her stay at an area homeless shelter. Through the Homeless Prevention Program, a case manager was able to assist her in finding a rental property within her budget, completing the rental application and arranging for her to stay a couple of more days at the shelter while the application was processed. The client went from almost sleeping in her car to being able to move into her new apartment within a week of completing a rental property application.

For more information: <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/housing/specialneeds/programs/HPRP.asp>